

Message Text

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51

ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 /024 W

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P 051300Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1910

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAIRO 1327

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (PRICE, MELVIN)

SUBJECT: CODEL PRICE: HOTEL ESRVATIONS

REF CAIRO 1199

1. WE REGRET THAT WE ARE AS YET UNABLE TO REPORT CONFIRMATION
OF HOTEL SPACE FOR CODEL PRICE.

2. SHERATON HOTEL MANAGERS HAS INDICATED HE WAS UNABLE
TO OBTAIN GUARANTEE FROM MINISTRY OF TOURISM THAT OTHER
HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS COULD BE PROVIDED FOR HIS GUESTS
WHO WOULD BE DISPLACED BY THE ASSIGNMENT OF THEIR ROOMS
TO CODEL PRICE.

3. IN PURSUING THAT MATTER FURTHER, DCM HAS BEEN IN CONTACT
WITH MFA CHIEF OF PROTOCOL AND ALSO MOHAMMED SHAFIK,
DIRECTOR OF CABINET FOR MINISTER OF TOURISM. LATTER
INDICATED EVERY EFFORT IS BEING MADE TO COMPLETE FORTY
ADDITIONAL ROOMS FOR NEW DELUXE HOTEL MERIDIEN IN ORDER
MAKE THEM AVAILABLE FOR CODEL. TARGET DATE FOR
COMPLETION IS SET FOR FEB 10 AND TOURISM MINISTER
IS URGING CONTRACTOR TO MEET THIS DATE. HOWEVER, SHAFIK WAS
UNABLE TO GUARANTEE THAT WORK WOULD BE COMPLETED BY THAT
TIME. HE PROMISED TO CONTACT EMBASSY FEB 6 IN
ORDER TO TRY PROVIDE SOME MORE DEFINITE INDICATION THIS
SPACE WOULD BE AVAILABLE.

4. DCM FOLLOWED UP THIS MATTER WITH GENERAL MANAGER
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OF MERIDIEN HOTEL WHO SAID HE WAS REASONABLY CONFIDENT

THAT AT LEAST TWENTY ROOMS, ALL DOUBLES, WOULD BE READY FOR OCCUPANCY BY FEB 14, ALTHOUGH HE ADMITTED THAT THIS DEPENDED UPON DILIGENCE OF CONTRACTOR. HE WARNED THAT ROOMS MIGHT NOT BE FINISHED TO POINT HE WOULD PREFER, BUT INDICATED THEY WOULD BE QUITE SUITABLE FOR OCCUPANCY.

5. WE HAVE BEEN MORE SUCCESSFUL RE AIR CREW, FOR WHOM WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO RESERVE TEN DOUBLE ROOMS OMAR KHAYAM HOTEL, ADMITTEDLY NOT FIRST CLASS HOTEL. IF SUFFICIENT SPACE BECOMES AVAILABLE AT MERIDIEN, WE WOULD PROPOSE TO PUT AIR CREW THERE, TOO.

6. HOPEFULLY, FURTHER REPRESENTATIONS BY MINISTRY OF TOURISM WITH CONTRACTOR WILL HAVE DESIRED EFFECT. HOWEVER, AS OF MOMENT, EMBASSY CANNOT YET CONFIRM AVAILABILITY OF EVEN TWENTY ROOMS. ASSUME THAT, IF THIS NUMBER OF DOUBLE ROOMS IS CONFIRMED, MEMBERS OF CODEL WILL BE WILLING TO DOUBLE UP WHERE NECESSARY. PLEASE ADVISE.
EILTS

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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